

Indiana Department of Child Services Older Youth Initiatives (OYI)

The Older Youth Initiatives (OYI) program encompasses CHAFEE Older Youth Services (OYS), Collaborative Care, and CHAFEE Voluntary Older Services. OYS were formerly known as the Chafee Independent Living Services. OYS and Collaborative Care are sets of services and supports used in order to assist older youth successfully achieve their successful adulthood case plan goals. OYS and Collaborative Care are primarily focused on helping those youth who are expected to turn 18 in foster care; however, OYS can be implemented concurrently with other goals like reunification and adoption. Voluntary Services are a set of services for youth who have “aged out” of the foster care system. Indiana’s Older Youth Initiatives services are geared to assisting current and former foster youth in the areas of housing, employment, education, physical and mental health and financial education.

The primary purposes of the OYI programs are:

- Identify youth who are expected to remain in foster care until their 18th birthday or after and assist them make the transition to self-sufficiency.
- Help identified youth receive necessary education, training, and services to overcome potential barriers to employment.
- Help youth prepare for and enter post-secondary education and/or training institutions.
- Provide personal and emotional support for youth aging out of foster care.
- Assist youth in locating and identifying community resources that will be available to the youth after DCS involvement has ended.
- Encourage positive personal growth in older youth through “teachable moments.”

Older Youth Initiatives is designed as a continuum of care beginning at age 16 with an extension of foster care until the youth turns 20 years of age and voluntary services as a safety net for older youth age 20–23.

OYI Older Youth Services

Older Youth Services	Collaborative Care	Voluntary Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Referral for OYS services at age 16 • Youth driven CFTM at age 14 • TPSA begins at age 14 • Youth Bill of Rights provided at age 14 • Youth prepare their own court report at age 14 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligible at age 18 • Must meet extended foster care eligibility requirements • Permanency Plan of APPLA • Continued foster care placement with additional placement options • Continued transitional services and planning • Ends at age 21 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former foster youth • Aged out of foster care at age 18 or CC case closed • Case Management Services • Emancipation of Goods and Services Funding • Room & Board Funding • Ends at age 23

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Older Youth Services Providers

Indiana Department of Child Services provides older youth services through contracted service providers. The Older Youth Service Providers (OYS Providers) provide services for youth / young adults who will or have aged out of foster care with the skills and abilities necessary or desirable to be self-reliant. There are 5 OYS providers contracted to provide OYS services within their service area throughout the State of Indiana. Please see chart below.

<i>SERVICE AREA</i>	<i>REGION</i>	<i>AGENCY</i>
1	1 & 2	Geminus
2	3 & 4	The Villages
3	5 & 6	Damar
4	8 & 9	The Villages
5	10 & 11	Children's Bureau
6	7 & 12	Children's Bureau
7	13 & 14	George Junior Republic
8	16 & 17	George Junior Republic
9	15 & 18	George Junior Republic

Other Supportive Services & Initiatives

- ***Indiana Youth Advisory Board:*** A youth lead board with adult supervision consisting of foster and former foster youth ages 14 to 23 that provides leadership experiences for youth throughout the state.
- ***Opportunity Passport:*** (Marion Co only): Financial Literacy program.
- ***Education and Training Voucher:*** A federally funded, state-administered program that provides financial and academic support for foster youth who turned 18 in foster care and for those foster youth who were adopted or placed in a guardianship at age 16 and are enrolled in qualified colleges, universities or vocational education programs
 - Probation youth must have an identified plan indicating the need for Older Youth Services.
- ***College Dorm Placement Program:*** A program that provides assistance to youth who are placed in a college dorm through the Collaborative Care program.
- ***Youth Career Training*** (Statewide) A vocational boot camp program that provides 3 to 7 day training in the following areas:
 - Culinary Arts
 - ServSafe
 - Building Trades
 - Care Maintenance
 - Life Skills
 - Other (A boot camp that does not fit into the other components)

Authentic Youth Engagement

- Youth Voice
- Youth – Adult Partnership
- Youth Driven Family Team Meetings
- Teachable moments & Healthy Risk Taking
- Adolescent Brain Development
- Trauma Informed Care

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Program Goals

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult Connections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Adult Support ➤ Adult Advocate ➤ Youth Connections Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Career Preparation ➤ Career Exploration ➤ Employment search ➤ Department of Workforce Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Jobs for American Graduates (JAG) ○ Work One | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education Liaisons ➤ 21st Century Scholars ➤ College Readiness ➤ College Support |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Housing Education ➤ Apartment Readiness ➤ Housing Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial and Asset Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Financial Education ➤ Credit Reporting ➤ Budget and Money Management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical and Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Medicaid to age 26 ➤ Health Education ➤ Risk Prevention |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities of Daily Living <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Basic Living Skills ➤ Life Skills Assessment ➤ Personal Documentation ➤ Developmental Development ➤ Self-Sufficiency | |

National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD)

NYTD requires that States engage in two data collection activities

1. Collect information on each youth who receives Older Youth Services paid for or provided by the State.
2. Collect demographic and outcome information on youth at age 17, 19, and 21 via survey

Older Youth Initiatives Team

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If you have question about older youth services please email: DCS Older Youth Questions @
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